

VIRGINIA URGED TO BANISH LIQUOR

Antisaloon League Committee Pleads for

MANY DELEGATES

Legislative Report Laid on Table
for Consideration To-Day—Evil
of Drink Aply Presented.
Want Jug Trade to Dry
Territory Broken Up.

With the opening of the eleventh annual convention of the Antislavery League of Virginia last night in the Seventh Street Christian Church which was filled almost to its capacity by about 70 earnest delegates seeking the abolition of the saloon, probably the hardest fight for State-wide prohibition in this Commonwealth was begun.

In the report of the legislative committee the following resolutions were embodied:

"Resolved (1), That we hereby urge the General Assembly of Virginia to pass the following bills:

"(a) A bill to give the people of Virginia the right to vote on the question of the abolition of the license system, or what is usually termed State-wide prohibition.

"(b) The two companion bills to restrict the license given by the State to sell liquor, to sales within the bounds of what is known as 'wet territory, and to restrict the shipment of liquor within the bounds of 'wet ter

"(c) Bills which will place such restrictions around the registration of voters that the padding of the registration lists with illiterate and venal voters will be prevented.

"(d) A bill to carry out the recommendation of the Governor that all saloons be closed from sunset until sunrise.

"(c) A bill to make it the duty of the Department of Charities and Corrections to make a careful study of all the facts pertaining to the liquor traffic, and to initiate and to aid in prosecutions for violations of the liquor laws.

"Resolved (2). That we hereby urge our Senators and Representatives to the Congress to vote and to work for the passage of such Federal legislation as will give to the several States entire control of the liquor traffic within their own borders and as will prohibit the

Other than a rising vote of thanks by the delegates to the convention to the members of the committee for their work, no action was taken on the report of the committee. However, it will come up for discussion this morning at 10 o'clock, that is, after having been set apart in the program for that purpose. Judging by the sentiment displayed, there is apparently no question but that the league will unanimously adopt all of the resolutions recommended by the committee.

The attendance at the opening ses-

tion was the largest in the history of the league, delegates being present from every section of the State, indicating the deep interest which is taken in the action of the present session of the General Assembly on the various measures which have been introduced dealing with the liquor traffic.

In welcoming the visitors Governor Mann expressed his sympathy with their object. "Ninety-nine per cent of the convicts in the penitentiary," he said, "are serving terms for crimes which were committed while they were under the influence of liquor. I have also discovered that many investigations, that the crime rate in Virginia is from twenty-three to twenty-five years. Therefore I say that the temptation of whiskey should be re-

Following the opening of the meeting with prayer by Rev. P. A. Cave, of Bowling Green, the Governor spoke while the response was made by Rev. J. M. Crowe, D. D., of Pulaski.

Address by President.

R. S. Barbour, president of the league, was presented by Rev. H. D. Macleachlan, D. D., pastor of the church.

"We are fighting a terrible foe," he said, "and the battle is a terrific one. We need more strong men, and our need for their influence is imperative."

We are now reaching only about one half of the State as it should be reached.

"Further, I wish also to emphasize the fact that we are not in politics and never have been. The league is true to its principles in regard to non-partisan candidates; we are non-partisan."

Mr. Barbour asked his audience not to be misled by anyone.

In a stirring address, Bishop J.C. Kilgus of the Methodist Episcopal Church South, pleaded that Virginia join with North Carolina in barring the legalized saloon. He said that advanced morality had been shown in the Old North State.

Should Go Into Politics.
The speaker was aroused to a little mirth over the announcement that the Virginia League was not in politics, and said that if it was not, that it should get in. "All of the politicians in the South," he asserted, "have a new class of constituents to deal with, and office seekers must now face a moral public in the South." There-